



## CONFLICT RESOLUTION IN MINDANAO

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE: CONFLICT REDUCED IN MINDANAO AND OTHER AREAS VULNERABLE TO ARMED CONFLICT

### BACKGROUND



The island of Mindanao has more than a third of the landmass of the Philippines and is home to one-fourth of the country's population, including a significant Muslim minority. Although the quality of life of the people of Mindanao has historically been well below national levels, the island clearly has potential for substantial and accelerated economic growth.



To help bring this about, USAID has been implementing aggressive, broad-ranging activities in Mindanao that aim to improve business climate and make economic growth more equitable, reintegrate former combatants into the economy, and strengthen local government units.

Visit our website:  
[www.usaid-ph.gov](http://www.usaid-ph.gov)  
keyword: conflict resolution



### BUSINESS CLIMATE and ECONOMIC GROWTH

Assistance to promote equitable economic growth, and opportunities for broad participation in such growth and its benefits.

**Growth with Equity in Mindanao (GEM)** supports crop enhancement programs, development of business support organizations, construction of small and medium-scale infrastructure, improvement of governance and education services, and policy reforms to improve the business climate in Mindanao. Facilitates transactions linking producers and markets in Mindanao with foreign and domestic investors, markets, and technology.

**Microenterprise Access to Banking Services (MABS)** is assisting Rural Banks throughout Mindanao to develop the capability to provide loans to microenterprises. Their lending services have sustainably reached 90,000 new micro-borrowers.

**Credit Union Empowerment and Strengthening (CUES)** is assisting 17 credit unions to expand financial services to poor people in general, reaching 207,000 members.

### REINTEGRATION OF FORMER COMBATANTS INTO THE

**ECONOMY-** Helps people in the conflict-affected areas of Mindanao re-build a peaceful economy and community life.

**The Livelihood Enhancement and Peace Program (LEAP)** assists former combatants in making the transition from guerilla fighters to farmers/fishermen by providing them with all the required production inputs to go into small-scale commercial production. LEAP also provides post-harvest facilities and small infrastructure to their communities to help increase their income and improve their lives. Some 21,000 former combatants have received, or are currently receiving assistance, and at least 4,000 more are expected to receive assistance within the next two years.

**LOCAL GOVERNANCE AND SOCIAL SERVICES** – Assists local governments to combat corruption and improve public administration:

**Transparent and Accountable Governance (TAG-2)** is a program that applies experience from successful USAID programs in other parts of the country to increase transparency and accountability at the local level and to improve public service delivery in the ARMM and throughout Mindanao.

**Barangay Justice Service System (BJSS)** develops capacity for alternative conflict resolution through the training of Barangay Justice Advocates and other service providers, thus giving marginalized and disadvantaged groups greater access to justice.

**Education Improvement** -Aims at building the capability of the ARMM Department of Education in educational planning and analysis, improving English language skills of school children, increasing internet access in schools and providing selected intervention in key vocational institutions.